(c) what is the criterion on which Government evaluate efficiency of PIB; and

(d) whether writing feature articles, releasing photo prints and organising press conferences are only measure of the efficiency of PIB, if not, whether there are other important determinants therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. In a majority of cases the agency news items are based on the information/material supplied by PIB or briefings provided by PIB/ Ministry's officials.

(c) and (d) PIB acts as an interface between Government and the media. Drawing of publicity plans, advising Ministries/Department on their publicity approach, providing feedback to Decision makers and providing media/PR conse-ling to Government are other important measures that reflect the efficiency of PIB.

Establishing the Metro Channel and Earth Transponder at Ahmedabad

116. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently announced to introduce second Metro Channel at Ahmedabad in Gujarat;

(b) if so, by when it would start functioning;

(c) whether Government propose to establish an 'Earth Transponder' connected with INSAT for Ahmedabad in Gujarat; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Arrangements for relay of Metro Channel Service is expected to be set up at Ahmedabad during 1994.

(c) and (d) An earth station has already been set up at Ahmedabad for uplinking of Regional TV programmes produced at DDK, Ahmedabad via INSAT and are relayed by all TV transmiters in the State of Gujarat.

Telecast of Budget Speech by Star TV

117. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow Star TV to telecast the Budget Speech of the Minister of Finance direct from the Parliament House; and

(b) if so, what are the conditions, for such telecast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) This Ministry is not aware of such a decision.

(b) Does not arise.

Mutual Sale of Programmes Between Doordarshan and Star T.V.

118. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doordarshan and Star T.V. are discussing modalities regarding the mutual sale of programmes; and

(b) if so, the details of the modalities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, sir.

(b) Does not arise.